#359

VS STARAVIA AND SKUNTANK II

SHE HAPPENS TO BE THE HEIRESS TO THE BERLITZ FAMILY, THE WEALTHIEST FAMILY IN SINNOH!
AND WE ARE HER BODYGUARDS WHO HAVE BEEN COMMISSIONED TO PROTECT HER!
WHAAAT?!
HEIRESS?
SHE'S NOT A TOUR GUIDE?!
CLIENT?
YOU DON'T SEEM TO GET IT...
WE FAIL TO UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE SURPRISED BY THIS...
...NOR DO WE SEEM TO BE ON THE SAME LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING!
HOWEVER...
...NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR US TO BE DELVING INTO SUCH MATTERS!
WE HAVE JUST ONE QUESTION!
ARE YOU "FRIEND" OR "FOE"?
GIVE US A SIMPLE ANSWER, PLEASE!!

FRIEND
DIA!!
ANYBODY WHO PROTECTS MISSY IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT...
...A FRIEND OF OURS!
OKAY!
A SIMPLE AND SPIRITED ANSWER. IT IS!
AND WE CAN BECOME CLOSER FRIENDS!! YOU'LL LISTEN AND LAUGH AT OUR DOUBLE ACT JOKES.
WHEN YOU THINK OF FUNNY MEN...
...YOU THINK OF MEN, STONE CITY!

WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING NON-STOP EVER SINCE COMING TO THIS CITY. AND TO THINK I THOUGHT WE'RE HERE TO JUST "VEIL" STONES...
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THAT!!
WE GET IT, WE GET IT! WELL, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST, SO JUST WATCH US FROM AFAR, OKAY?
AFTER ALL, OUR CURRENT JOB IS TO PROTECT THE HIDDEN LADY...
...FROM THIS ARMY!!
STAMP
SPLAT
WHAAM
JUMP
FLA FLA FLAP FLAP

BUT PAKA, WHAT AN OVERWHELMING NUMBER OF SOLDIERS THEY HAVE!
YES, UJI! IF WE BATTLE THEM ONE BY ONE, OUR ENERGY WILL SURELY BE DEPLETED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!
LET US REPEAT WHAT WE DID IN THE LOST TOWER!
OKAY PAKA!
BUIZEL!!
SWIRRRL
FWHOMP
FWHOMP
WHOMP
HE CAUSED A SANDSTORM TO BLOCK THE ENEMIES SIGHT AND CONFUSE THEM!
THEY'RE AMAZING! I NEVER KNEW YOU COULD USE BUIZEL'S TAIL LIKE THAT!
SAY, DIA...
WHEN THEY SAID THE "HIDDEN LADY"... IT MEANS THAT THEY'VE HIDDEN MESPY SOMEWHERE RIGHT?
YEAH!
WHY DID THEY DO THAT? IS IT...
...BECAUSE THAT GROUP OF PEOPLE IS TRYING TO CAPTURE HER?
IN THAT CASE, DIA...
NO, I MEAN DIAMOND!
YEAH!
UNCLE!!
STOP STOP
I HAVE SOMETHING EVEN BETTER FOR YOU TO STIR UP!
COME ON, WIG!
"WIGLETT LEAF" !!!
SHOOT
SHOOT

WOOSH
THWACK
THWACK
THWACK
THWACK
THWACK
OOH! YOU CAN BLOCK THEIR VIEW AND DEAL DAMAGE TO THEM AT THE SAME TIME LIKE THIS!
THAT SKUNTANK BEHIND YOU IS ABOUT TO USE "NIGHT SLASH"!!
SMASH
YOU...! YOU CAN TELL WHAT MOVE THE POKÉMON IS ABOUT TO MAKE JUST BY ITS STANCE ALONE?!
YEAH, PEARL'S GREAT AT THAT!
UGH!
THESE BOYS MAY BE SURPRISABLE...
...TALENTED AT POKÉMON BATTLES!
IF WE TEACH THEM SOME PROFESSIONAL TECHNIQUES...
...AND TRAIN THEM UP PROPERLY, THEN...!
HEY, YOU BOYS! I WANT YOU TO DO AS I SAY!
EH?
FIRST OF ALL, LINE UP IN A SINGLE FILE!
W-WHAT'S UP? I THOUGHT YOU WANTED US TO WATCH YOU FROM AFAR?
JUST DO IT!
ALL RIGHT!!
LET'S GO!!
SHUFFLE

YOUR MONFANG WILL SPEARHEAD THE ATTACK! SHOW ME HOW YOU'LL USE HIM TO LAUNCH AN AERIAL ATTACK USING TREES OR ROCKS!
F-FOX CHAIN-RIP!
STOMP
...HEY, WAIT! THERE AREN'T ANY TREES OR ROCKS HERE!!
WELL, THAT'S WHAT YOUR PARTNER IS FOR, ISN'T IT?!
MAKE THE GROTTLE USE "STEALTH ROCK" IMMEDIATELY!
O-OKAY!
"STEALTH ROCK"!!!
STOMP
CRASH
STEP
STEP
STEP
HE LEAPT INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE FLOCK OF STARAVIA!!
GOOD
STOP
USE "MONFANG" THERE!
EEH?! ARE YOU SURE?!
YES!!
SWIPE!
NOW, ATTACK!!!
SWISH
HISS
SMACK
SMACK
SMACK
SMACK

WHOA!!
THMP
THMP
THMP
IF WE MAKE HIM SPIN UPWARDS FROM BELOW A SINGLE "EMBER" IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DEFEAT THE WHOLE FLOCK IN ONE FELL SWOOP!
THE ENEMIES HAVE BEEN CAUGHT OFF GUARD AS WELL!
WE'LL MAKE USE OF THEIR SURPRISE TO...
SWEAR

SCREECH

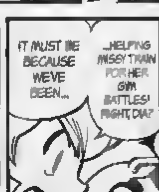
KOOO
"HIDDEN POWER"!!!

THUD
THUD
THUD

A-AMAZING! OUR POKéMON SUDDENLY SEEM SO STRONG!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOUR POKéMON ARE ALREADY STRONG ENOUGH AS IT IS!
IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO HOW YOU USE 'EM.
AUGH~ STRONG ENOUGH!
EXACTLY! LOOK AT THAT!

SPURT
SPURT

THEY
CHUMPO!
WIN!


IT MUST BE BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN...
...HELPING MISSY TRAIN FOR HER GYM BATTLES! RIGHT, DIA?

MISSY WAS THE ONE WHO ACTUALLY CHALLENGED THE GYM, BUT...
...LOOKS LIKE OUR POKÉMON BECAME STRONGER AT THE SAME TIME AS WELL!

SPURT

WOOBLE
WOOBLE

OH DEAR! LOOKS LIKE A FEW OF THEM STILL HAVE SOME STRENGTH LEFT!

LET'S MOVE, UJI!
EH? BUT WHY, PIKA?

WE'VE BEEN UNCONSCIOUSLY FIGHTING WITH THE DEPARTMENT STORE BEHIND US ALL THIS TIME!
AT THIS RATE...
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN! IT MAY GIVE THEM AN IDEA AS TO WHERE WE'VE HIDDEN OUR CLIENT!
BOOM
WHERE AM I...?
WHERE DO YOU THINK WE ARE, PENELOPE?
TRAINING WEAR
IT LOOKS LIKE...
FITNESS MACHINE
...WE'RE INSIDE A VERY BIG SHOP!
YOU TWO, COME WITH US!
DASH
FITTING ROOM
UGH...
THEY'RE LATE!!
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN ALREADY?!
NOT ONLY HAVE THEY NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET THEM TO REVEAL THE LOCATION OF THE "LADY"...
...BUT THEY HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN ABLE TO CAPTURE THOSE TWO YET, YOU SAY?!

I MUST... LET THEM HAVE A TASTE OF ULTIMATE DREAD...!!
ULTIMATE...
...DREAD.
WHAT? NOT BACK YET?
THE GUY DID...
...MENTION THAT IT'S IN A USABLE STATE...
WHAT SAY WE...
...GIVE THIS THING A WHIRL, HUH?
RIGHT! I'VE DECIDED!
LET'S USE IT!
I'M GOING TO...
VOOOOM
...USE "THIS THING"!
THE GREATEST STRATEGY OF TEAM GALACTIC AT THIS VERY MOMENT REVOLVES AROUND...
...THE GALACTIC BOMB!
COMPARED TO THAT, "THIS THING" IS LIKE A PAST RELIC THAT HAS BEEN ABANDONED SINCE ITS DEVELOPMENT WAS HALTED.
IT'S NOTHING BUT AN "UNFINISHED PRODUCT".
SO EVEN IF I WERE TO USE IT WITHOUT PERMISSION, I'M SURE THEY WOULDN'T BE TOO ANGRY WITH ME...

ALL RIGHT?
ENERGY SHOOTING PLUG, LIFT OFF!!
LEFT CANOPY, FRONT HATCH...
OPEN!!
KLAQWK

NOW I'LL JUST HAVE TO LURE THEM TO THIS GALACTIC VEILSTONE BUILDING!
I WANT TO KNOW WHERE THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY'RE DOING NOW.

HEY! SEND OUT THE CAMERA AFTER THEM!
THUD
WHAT?
THE ONE THAT WAS DESTROYED AT THE LOST TOWER HASN'T BEEN FIXED YET?

THEN SEND A NEW ONE OUT, YOU MORONS!
SEND IT OUT!
I SAID, SEND IT OUT!!
SEND IT!! OUT!!!
SWOOSH

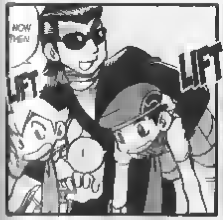
DASH

EIGHT OF THEM STILL HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT TO CHASE AFTER US!
WHAT A PITIFUL BUNCH!

TELL ME ABOUT IT! AND IT'S NOT JUST THAT...
RIGHT, DIA?
YEAH!

THEY ALL FEEL SO CREEPY!
YEAH! THE TRAINER AND POKÉMON DON'T TALK TO EACH OTHER... THEY DON'T EVEN SO MUCH AS WINK AT ONE ANOTHER, AND YET THEY MOVE TOGETHER IN PERFECT UNISON!
IT'S ALMOST LIKE THEY DON'T HAVE A WILL OF THEIR OWN...
...BUT ARE MOVING COLLECTIVELY AS A GROUP!
HMM...
YOU'RE DEFINITELY ON TO SOMETHING!
WE FEEL THE SAME WAY TOO!
AND THAT IS PRECISELY WHY THE "EMBER" AND "HIDDEN POWER" MOVE WE PULLED OFF JUST NOW WORKED WONDERFULLY.
...BECAUSE IT INVOLVED CHARGING INTO THE BOSOM OF THE ENEMIES AND UNLEASHING THE ATTACK ON ALL OF THEM AT ONCE!
AND THAT HAS NOT CHANGED EVEN NOW!
"SWIFT" !!!
SMASH
"SONIC-BOOM" !!!
FWHOOSH
SHUFFLE-SHUFFLE

THEY CHASE AS ONE MAN...
...AND DODGE AS ONE MAN AS WELL!
AND...
SLEEK!


NOW THEN...
LIFT
LIFT

I WANT YOU TWO TO STAY HERE

WHEN THEY STOP...
...THEY STOP AS ONE!!
SHUFF

IN THAT CASE, THERE'S NO REASON WHY WE SHOULDN'T USE THAT TO OUR ADVANTAGE, RIGHT?
YOU SEEM PRETTY CONFIDENT, UH?

WE'RE IN A PRECARIOUS SITUATION HERE, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED!
NO, PAKA! THIS IS THE PERFECT SETTING FOR US!

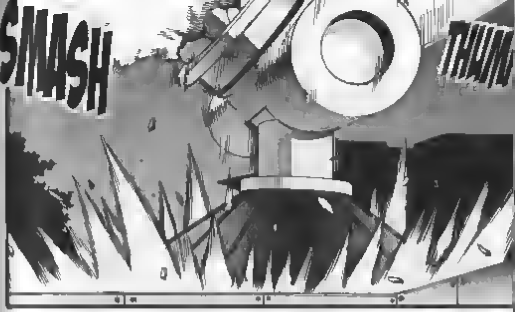
I'LL ANCHOR YOU TO THE TRUNK WITH MY MUFFLER.

NOW, I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO...
...DO AS WE SAY AGAIN!

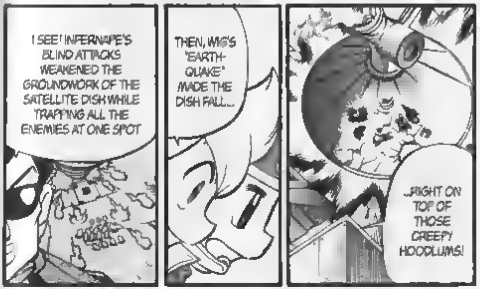
AH...
RUMBLE RUMBLE
IT'S THE THORNY BUILDING...
I THINK THERE WAS ONE IN ETERNO CITY AS WELL...

OKAY! GIVE YOUR INFERNAPE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THERE!
EH?!
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE ENEMIES ARE BECAUSE OF THE SATELLITE DISH'S SHADOW! AND CHIMCHO HAS LOUSY AIM!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT AND JUST GO ALL OUT!
CHIM-CHO!!
"CHIMCHO" !!!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! KEEP AT IT!
H-HEY, UJI!
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU LEFT THE KIDS IN A SAFE ZONE, BUT...
...INFERNAPE WILL JUST KEEP STRIKING THE AIRLINE THAT!
FLARE
NOPE...
IT ALL...
...SERVES A PURPOSE!
TMP
OKAY! IT'S TORTERRA'S TURN NOW!
WHAT? ME?!
THAT'S RIGHT! I WANT YOU TO SHAKE THE GROUND AS HARD AS YOU CAN!
WIG IT
"EARTHQUAKE"!!!
KERSMASH

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
CRACK
RUMBLE
THUMBLE


SMASH
THUM

SUCCESS!


I SEE! INFERNAPE'S BLIND ATTACKS WEAKENED THE GROUNDWORK OF THE SATELLITE DISH WHILE TRAPPING ALL THE ENEMIES AT ONE SPOT
THEN, WIG'S "EARTH-QUAKE" MADE THE DISH FALL...
...RIGHT ON TOP OF THOSE CREEPY HOODLUMS!

PIKA AND I COULD HAVE GOTTEN HIT BY THE "EARTHQUAKE" IN THIS PLAN TOO, BUT LOOKS LIKE IT WENT WELL!
AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO THOSE STRONG POKéMON OF YOURS
AW, SHUCKS! YOUR PRAISE REALLY GIVES ME A "RAICHE" BOOST OF CONFIDENCE!
MAN, THAT WAS AWKWARD! AT LEAST SAY, "THAT SATELLITE SET'S ALIGHT A DISH OF VICTORY!" OR SOMETHING!
HA HA HA!!
WELL, THEN, LET US GO RETRIEVE OUR CLIENT AND DISCUSS ABOUT OUR PLANS FROM HERE ON...
TIE HE
THOSE USELESS GRUNTS... THEY DIDN'T MANAGE TO DEAL A SINGLE POINT OF DAMAGE TO THEM IN THE END!
STILL, YOU GUYS HAVE DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH
CLICK CLICK
NOW THAT...
...YOU HAVE LURED THEM INTO A PLACE WITHIN THE SHOOTING RANGE OF "THIS THING"...

LET THE COUNTDOWN TO ULTIMATE DREAD...
...BEGIN"
FIVE SECONDS TO ENERGY BLAST.
Voom
Voom
4
?!
WHAT THE? IS THAT A DEEP BASS SOUND?
URGH... THE INSIDE OF MY EARS ARE TREMBLING LIKE CRAZY!
I FEEL SICK...
3
Voom
2
Voom
Voom
1

ЕЩЁ

THE ENERGY BEAM THAT THIS BABY FIRES IS SOMETHING WE TEAM GALACTIC STUMBLED UPON BY CHANCE WHILE PURSUING OUR PLANS...
...BUT IT WASN'T SOMETHING MERE HUMANS COULD DEAL WITH... SO WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ABANDON IT.
TO BE HIT BY THIS MUCH FORCE... WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE WOULD HAPPEN?
KEH HEH HEH!
YOU TWO WILL BE CUT OFF FROM THE WORLD YOU'RE CURRENTLY IN...
...AND BE TRAPPED IN CONFINEMENT FOR ALL ETERNITY!